

# Metro Loop Due For Top Action

The 1957 Metropolitan Conference basketball season got under way this week, Santa Monica meeting Harbor, and L.A. Valley meeting El Camino in a double-header at the Warrior gym while East Los Angeles tangled with the Long Beach CC quintet in Long Beach. Bakersfield opens tomorrow night.

Defending champions of the powerful conference are the Harbor Seahawks under Coach Norm Kettering, but the Hawks will be pushed this year from several sources to keep the crown.

Here's the way the teams look this week, based on personnel and preseason sessions:

## HARBOR J.C.

Gone is the fabulous Jim Newman from the '56 lineup but Coach Kettering has four returnees from last year's team, including Bob Cook, Leon Gravett, John Montagna, and George Padovan — who made the second all Metro team in '56 and had a 12.6 scoring average last year. In addition, the Seahawks have Robert Chor from San Pedro High; all of whom have outstanding records prior to enrolling at Harbor.

## BAKERSFIELD

Bill Bishop's Gade five had a 9-5 record last year that was good for a tie for second spot and indications are that his '57 edition will compare favorably with his high scoring '56 club. Bishop has center Jess Washington, forwards Smith Callahan and Bill Cowan back from the '56 team, as well as Jack Qualman from the '56 team, Bob Clerico, and freshman Mac Ellis. Cowan was second in total scoring last year and also was a second team selection for All-Metro honors. With a new gymnasium to play in and a flock of good basketballers on its roster, Bakersfield may break a three year stranglehold on second place and jump a rung higher.

The Gades have placed second in the Metro league for the past three seasons.

## SANTA MONICA

Five lettermen will be on hand to give Coach Don Blemer a strong club for the '57 season. The Corsairs tied for second spot with Bakersfield last year and hit the hoop for 10 points which was tops in the Metro circuit. Ron Bora, Leonard Bourget, and Bob Oldham are the five returnees. This quintet is bolstered by Arnie Marks, all Western from Venice High, Sonny Smith of Santa Monica, and Joe Mendelson from University High. Williams was an all Metro forward in '56 and was second in the scoring department for the Corsairs. Oldham was all Metro in 1951 and a member of the Far East Air Force champions in '53 and '54. This aggregation will give any team a lot of trouble.

## EL CAMINO

The backbone of Coach George Stanich's El Camino Warrior five is formed by Tony Navarro and Roy Ruebel, returning letterman from '56. Ruebel was named as the outstanding El Camino player and led at better than 12 point average. In addition, the Warriors will bank on Dave Hig-

gins, Frank Ellis, Dennis Carroll, and Bill Davis. The Warriors claim wins this year over Compton, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Pasadena.

## VALLEY J.C.

The Monarchs, under the leadership of their new coach, Ralph Caldwell, will be tough to beat. Caldwell has but Gary Shair and Harry Planck returning from the third place '56 team. In addition to the two lone returnees, Caldwell has Dave Cadiente, All-League from Hollywood High; Gary Norton from Junipero Serra High and later from Loyola College, Doug Clements from Verdugo Hills, leading scorer in the city last year; and Mike Higer, currently second top scorer for the Monarchs. Valley has topped Antelope Valley and Reedley for its best wins.

## LONG BEACH C.C.

Charlie Church, now in his ninth year as LBCC basketball coach, has only four returning lettermen including forwards Tom Craill, Dick Dickinson, Jimmie R. Smith, and Maynard Thompson. Leading Viking scorer is Russ Tyler, ex-Wilson High star and has a 22.7 average. Other top basketballers are Don Miller, Jim Krel and Jim Arasin — all newcomers. The Vikings have won from Santa Ana, Pasadena, and Mt. San Antonio.

## EAST LOS ANGELES

Dave Taylor, in his ninth year as basketball coach at ELAIC, claims only two returning lettermen from last year's squad — guard Andy Cathers and Harold Jeffs. Cathers was top scorer for East L.A. in '56 with a 14.5 average. Returning from the '55 squad is Chan Lister — 6'6" center of Huntington Park. Two All-City hoopsters reported to Taylor this year — Eliseo Nino from Lincoln High, and Dean Alger from Bell High. East L.A. has already claimed a win over Pasadena and lost a close one to LACC (71-77). Taylor will receive plenty of help from Andy Gilmore, Cantwell High; Ed Rush, Bell; Fred Scott, Garfield; and Ron Chambers from Montebello High.

## SAN DIEGO

Always a threat in the Metropolitan Conference, the San Diego Knights are an unknown quantity this year. The San Diego five will be under a new coach, Merrill Douglas, and should rank better than its seventh spot of '56.

## Cyclist, 8, Hit by Auto

Jerry Glassman, 8, of 5410 Calle Ricardo, suffered possible internal injuries when his bicycle was involved in a collision with a car Sunday, police report.

The lad was taken to the Permanente Hospital in Harbor City following the mishap at Calle de Arboles and Via El Sereno.

The motorist, Ernest Wesenfelder, 42, of 4732 Sharynne Lane, was not held.

Orean McMillan, 41, of 20035 Bellmare Ave., suffered a cut forehead when his car skidded out of control and struck a curbing along the 4500 block of Halston St. on Sunday.

# Jim Dandy to Offer Trips To Moon at Lomita Store

Local children will be treated to free trips to the moon tomorrow when Frankie Luer brings his huge space ship to the Jim Dandy Market at 24911 S. Western Ave. Free trips in the rocket ship will be available from 12 noon to 7 p.m.

Built by Luer Packing Co. to entertain their young friends, Frankie Luer's Space Ship is an authentic 60-foot replica of the giant interplanetary ship of the future.

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